

# Rural District of Whitchurch, Hants.

Area 30,609 acres; Population 6079 (to middle of 1916).

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## *Annual Report*

For the year ended Dec. 31, 1917.

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TO THE WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1917. Copies of this Report have been forwarded to the Local Government Board, Home Office, and County Council. The District consists of Whitchurch, Overton, and St. Mary Bourne, with various adjoining parishes.

Below are the various tables comparing Births and Deaths with the previous year:—

### REGISTERED BIRTHS.

	1916.	1917.
Whitchurch Division .....	62	49
Overton ,, .....	35	41
St. Mary Bourne,, .....	18	22
Total .....	<hr/> 115 <hr/>	<hr/> 112 <hr/>

**DEATHS.**

	1916.	1917.
Whitchurch Division .....	37	31
Overton ,, .....	17	23
St. Mary Bourne ,, .....	9	11
	—	—
Total .....	63	65
	—	—

**DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.**

	1916.	1917.
Whitchurch Division .....	4	0
Overton ,, .....	2	2
St. Mary Bourne ,, .....	1	3
	—	—
Total .....	7	5
	—	—

**DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE DISTRICT.**

	1916.	1917.
Whitchurch Workhouse Infirmary ..	7	4
Whitchurch Isolation Hospital.....	0	0
	—	—
	7	4
	—	—

**DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS BEYOND THE DISTRICT.**

1916.	1917.
7	13

**NET DEATH RATE FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.**

	1916.	1917.
General (Nett) .....	11.8	12.9
Infants (Net) .....	61.4	43.8

**BIRTH RATE (NET) PER 1000 OF THE POPULATION.**

1916.	1917.
18.7	18.7

There were 6 illegitimate births in the District during the year 1917.

The following cases were notified during the year :—

#### **WHITCHURCH DIVISION.**

Measles .....	6
German Measles.....	92
Erysipelas .....	5
Scarlet Fever .....	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	12
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.....	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.....	2

#### **OVERTON DIVISION.**

Measles .....	2
German Measles.....	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	3

#### **ST. MARY BOURNE DIVISION.**

Measles.....	4
German Measles .....	51
Erysipelas .....	1
Scarlet Fever (a military case).....	1
Diphtheria (one military case).....	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.....	1

**INFLUENZA.**—This was prevalent in January and February in Whitchurch, Laverstoke, Overton and Hurstbourne Priors.

**PNEUMONIA.**—There were some cases in Whitchurch in February.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—Two cases were notified from St. Mary Bourne—the first, in August, was a mild case, and the second, in December, was also a mild case, the patient being a soldier.

**SCARLET FEVER.**—One case only among the civil population was notified during the year, this being a boy who had not been away from Whitchurch, and as far as could be ascer-

tained had not been in contact with any suspicious case. He was removed to the Isolation Hospital and made a good recovery. In April a soldier at St. Mary Bourne was found to be suffering from Scarlet Fever and was removed to a military isolation hospital.

**SMALL POX.**—No case occurred.

**DIARRHOEA.**—A number of cases occurred in different parts of the district in February. They were chiefly among adults, and the cases were of rather a severe type. It was noticed that they appeared immediately after a severe frost. There were a few cases also in Whitchurch in May.

**ENTERIC FEVER.**—*Nil.*

**ERYSIPELAS.**—Six cases occurred during the year.

**CANCER.**—Eleven deaths occurred during the year.

**MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES.**—This was prevalent in Whitchurch and St. Mary Bourne from the end of March to the end of June, whilst a few cases occurred at Overton. In all 12 cases of measles and 146 cases of German measles were notified.

**CHICKEN POX.**—There were a few cases in May at Freefolk and in December at Whitchurch.

**PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.**—Seventeen cases were notified during the year, four being ex-Service men and one a visitor, who came into the country because he felt ill—he had advanced lung trouble. Three deaths occurred.

**OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.**—Two cases were notified.

**CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.**—Two cases—both children—were notified in February and March, and both cases were of a severe type. One was treated at the Isolation Hospital and one at home. The father of one patient—a soldier—had



recently returned to France, and as he might have been a carrier information was sent to the Military Authorities. Both cases made excellent recoveries.

**HOME REFUSE AND RUBBISH.**—The scavenger removes this twice a week at Whitchurch and once a week at Overton.

**DUST.**—A properly covered-in dust cart is as badly needed as ever. When at some future date it is fully realised how much illness may be caused by dust, perhaps some better means of collecting it than in an open cart will be found.

**THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES** have been inspected, cleansed, and whitewashed.

**DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**—These were inspected in the usual way, and some limewashing found not to have been done.

**BAKEHOUSES.**—Ten in number. Inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

**FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**—Various visits were made during the year.

**DISINFECTION OF PREMISES, BEDDING AND CLOTHING.**—This has been carried out by your Sanitary Inspector where infectious disease has occurred.

**DRAINAGE.**—The surface water is conveyed by drains and gutters in some parts of Whitchurch and Overton to the river Test.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—Samples have been examined and found to be satisfactory. Public tube pumps —4 at Whitchurch and 5 at Overton.

**DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT.**—By the pail system chiefly, the pails being emptied twice a week in Whitchurch and Overton. There are a few old pits and cemented vaults.

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.**—The following samples were taken by the County Inspector for analysis and found to be genuine :—

Arrowroot .....	1	New Milk .....	4
Butter .....	8	Pepper.....	2
Lard.....	3	Tea .....	1
Mustard .....	1		

A sample of sweets was certified to contain lead to the extent of 1.9 parts per million. As this sample was purchased informally proceedings could not be taken.

**HOUSING AND NEW HOUSES.**—There were no new houses built during 1917. There were several cases of overcrowding, which were dealt with and several houses found unfit for human habitation.

**HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.**—Under my supervision your Sanitary Inspector has carried out inspections under this Act, 9 houses being inspected.

Under Section 15—

Defects reported .....	4
Defects remedied .....	2

On Table V. is shown a summary of the work done by the Inspector of Nuisances, whose valuable assistance, always readily given, I desire to acknowledge.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. A. COATES, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

**TABLE I.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1917 and Previous Years.**  
**WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.**

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	NETT.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births		
												Number.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1912	6121	131	134	21·8	65	10·6	...	6	8	59·7	71	11·5
1913	6121	134	134	21·8	38	6·2	...	9	3	22·3	47	7·6
1914	6121	139	140	22·8	72	11·7	...	7	9	64·2	79	12·9
1915	6079	134	135	22·2	88	14·4	...	8	9	66·6	92	15·1
1916	6079	115	114	18·7	63	10·3	...	9	7	61·4	72	11·8
1917	6079	112	114	18·7	65	10·6	...	14	5	43·8	79	12·9

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—30,609. Total population at all ages—6,079.  
 Number of inhabited houses 1475. Average number of persons per house 4·1.

**TABLE II. — Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1917.**  
**WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Whitchurch.	Overton.	St. Mary Bourne.	
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.				
German Measles	146	1	20	75	34	15	1	...	92	3	51	...
Measles ...	12	1	2	8	1	...	...	...	6	2	4	...
Diphtheria (Including Membranous Croup)	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	2	...
Erysipelas ...	6	...	...	1	...	1	3	1	5	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17	...	...	1	3	12	1	...	12	3	2	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...
Totals ...	189	2	23	87	39	30	5	1	119	8	62	2

Isolation Hospital—Whitchurch (Hants), provided by Rural District Council. Total available Beds, 12.  
 Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.



**TABLE III.—Causes of Death during  
Year 1917.**

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH. Civilians only.	Males.	Females.
All causes ... ..	32	47
Influenza ... ..	2	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	2	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	3	8
Organic heart disease ...	7	14
Bronchitis ... ..	1	4
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	3	4
Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever... ..	...	1
Congenital debility, &c. ...	1	1
Violence, apart from suicide...	1	2
Suicide ... ..	1	...
Other defined diseases ...	11	12
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age ... ..	1	4
Total births ... ..	58	56
Legitimate ... ..	55	53
Illegitimate ... ..	3	3
Population for death-rate ...	5,627	
„ „ birth-rate ...	6,273	

**TABLE IV.—Infant Mortality during the Year 1917.**  
Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1—3 Months.	3—6 Months.	6—9 Months.	9—12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES—										
Certified     ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis       ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Enteritis...     ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth     ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	...	5

Births in the Year:—Legitimate, 108; Illegitimate 6.      Deaths in the Year:—Legitimate, 5; Illegitimate, 0.

TABLE V.—Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department during the Year 1917.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL DISTRICT.

	NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICES.		NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICES BY		NUISANCE REMAINING UNABATED.
	Inspections and Observations made.	Defects found.	Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Inspector.	Authority.	
Dwelling-houses and Schools { Foul Conditions Structural Defects Over-crowding Unfit for Habitation...	30 16 10 ...	10 4 2 ...	10 4 2 ...	... ... 2 ...	9 4 ... ...	... ... 2 ...	1 ... ... ...
Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cowsheds ...	86	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bakehouses ...	48	...	...	...	...	...	...
Slaughter-houses ...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canal Boats ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies ...	18	3	3	...	3	...	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...
Water-closets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
House Drainage { Defective Traps No Disconnection Other Faults...	3 ... 6	1 ... 3	1 ... 3	... ... 1	1 ... 2	... ... 1	... ... ...
Water Supply ...	9	2	2	...	2	...	...
Pigsties ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Animals improperly kept ...	3	1	1	...	1	...	...
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	25	7	7	...	7	...	...
Totals	289	34	34	3	30	3	1

Complaints received, 1. Samples of Water taken for analysis, 1; condemned as unfit for use, 0.  
Houses disinfected after infectious disease, 26. Schools ditto; 0.

TABLE 5—continued.

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

### INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

Is there any scarcity of houses and where?—

Whitchurch and Overton.

Number of new houses built in 1917—0.

General character—Cottage.

Any Town Planning Scheme contemplated?—No.

Who has been designated as the Inspecting Officer under Article II. of the Housing Regulations, 1910?—

J. S. Knight, Inspector of Nuisances.

Are records submitted to L.A. at each meeting?—

When necessary.

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Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	9
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#### Section 17—

Dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation	...	7
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Representations made	...	7
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Closing Order made	...	1
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Houses made habitable without closing orders	...	2
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Houses made habitable as result of closing orders	...	—
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Houses demolished	...	—
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Houses unfit but still occupied	...	2
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#### Section 15—

Defects reported	...	4
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Defects remedied	...	2
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Notices served	...	4
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